

# RHYMES TO BE TRADED FOR BREAD

BEING NEW VERSES BY NICHOLAS VACHEL LINDSAY, SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS, JUNE, 1912.  
PRINTED EXPRESSLY AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR MONEY.

THIS BOOK IS TO BE USED IN EXCHANGE FOR THE NECESSITIES OF LIFE ON A TRAMP-JOURNEY FROM THE AUTHOR'S HOME TOWN, THROUGH THE WEST AND BACK, DURING WHICH HE WILL OBSERVE THE FOLLOWING RULES: (1) KEEP AWAY FROM THE CITIES. (2) KEEP AWAY FROM THE RAILROADS. (3) HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH MONEY. CARRY NO BAGGAGE. (4) ASK FOR DINNER ABOUT QUARTER AFTER ELEVEN. (5) ASK FOR SUPPER, LODGING AND BREAKFAST ABOUT QUARTER OF FIVE. (6) TRAVEL ALONE. (7) BE NEAT, TRUTHFUL, CIVIL AND ON THE SQUARE. (8) PREACH THE GOSPEL OF BEAUTY.

IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT THE LAST RULE THERE WILL BE THREE EXCEPTIONS TO THE RULE AGAINST BAGGAGE. (1) THE AUTHOR WILL CARRY A BRIEF PRINTED STATEMENT, CALLED "THE GOSPEL OF BEAUTY." (2) HE WILL CARRY THIS BOOK OF RHYMES FOR DISTRIBUTION. (3) ALSO HE WILL CARRY A SMALL PORTFOLIO WITH PICTURES, ETC., CHOSEN TO GIVE AN OUTLINE OF HIS VIEW OF THE HISTORY OF ART, ESPECIALLY AS IT APPLIES TO AMERICA.

## INTRODUCTION

### UPON RETURNING TO THE COUNTRY ROAD.

EVEN THE SHREWD AND BITTER,  
GNARLED BY THE OLD WORLD'S GREED,  
CHERISHED THE STRANGER SOFTLY  
SEEING HIS UTTER NEED.  
SHELTER AND PATIENT HEARING,  
THESE WERE THEIR GIFTS TO HIM,  
TO THE MINSTREL GRIMLY BEGGING  
AS THE SUNSET-FIRE GREW DIM.  
THE RICH SAID "YOU ARE WELCOME."  
YEA, EVEN THE RICH WERE GOOD.  
HOW STRANGE THAT IN THEIR FEASTING  
HIS SONGS WERE UNDERSTOOD!  
THE DOORS OF THE POOR WERE OPEN,  
THE POOR WHO HAD WANDERED TOO,  
WHO HAD SLEPT WITH NE'ER A ROOF-TREE  
UNDER THE WIND AND DEW.  
THE MINDS OF THE POOR WERE OPEN,  
THERE DARK MISTRUST WAS DEAD.  
THEY LOVED HIS WIZARD STORIES,  
THEY BOUGHT HIS RHYMES WITH BREAD.  
THOSE WERE HIS DAYS OF GLORY,  
OF FAITH IN HIS FELLOW-MEN.  
THEREFORE, TODAY THE SINGER . . .  
TURNS BEGGER ONCE AGAIN.

HE BLEW ME TO A WINDLAND BUSH;  
WITH SPEED AND JOY WE FLEW.  
THE GREAT BUSH BLOOMED WITH PARCHMENTS FINE, OF SONGS THAT FEED  
THE SOUL,  
ALL NEW, THAT OUR DEAR EARTH SHALL  
HEAR, WHEN POETS REACH THEIR  
GOAL.  
WHEN OUR GROWN CHILDREN, BREATHING  
FIRE, SHALL JUSTIFY ALL TIME,  
BY HYMNS OF LIVING SILVER, SONGS  
WITH SUNRISE IN THE RHYME.  
I WISH THAT I HAD LEARNED BY HEART  
SOME LYRICS READ THAT DAY,  
I KNEW NOT 'TWAS A GIANT HOUR, AND  
SPENT IT ALL IN PLAY.  
WINDLAND GLEAMS SO DEWY-WHITE, SO  
FULL OF CRYSTAL PEACE,  
AND EVERY LEAF A SILKEN HARP, WHOSE  
MURMURS WILL NOT CEASE.  
I GORGED THE HONEY FROM THE CUPS OF  
WILD-FLOWERS ALL ABOUT,  
LAUGHING WHEN THE WIZARD LAUGHED,  
AND PUT THE GNATS TO ROUT.  
I READ ONCE MORE, THEN SLEPT AWHILE,  
THEN WOKE ON EARTH AGAIN,  
I WISH THOSE SCROLLS WERE MINE THAT  
I MIGHT BRING THEM 'UNTO MEN!

## VERSES OF FANTASY AND DESIRE

THE WIZARD WIND.  
THE WIZARD WIND'S A FRIEND OF MINE,—  
MOST INTIMATE, IN TRUTH,  
HE WHISTLES SORROW HALF AWAY, HE  
GIVES ME GOLDEN YOUTH.  
AND FREE AS THAT SMALL BIRD THAT  
EATS THE WHEAT-EAR IN THE SHEAF  
I AM NO LONGER MAN, BUT CLOUD, OR  
TUMBLED MAPLE-LEAF.  
ONCE HE TRANSFORMED ME TO A BEE,  
HUNGRY FOR HONEY-DEW,

## THE KING OF YELLOW BUTTERFLIES.

(EARLY SPRING.)

THE KING OF YELLOW BUTTERFLIES NOW  
ORDERS FORTH HIS MEN,  
HE SAYS, "THE TIME IS ALMOST HERE  
WHEN VIOLETS BLOOM AGAIN."  
ADOWN THE ROAD THE FICKLE ROUT GOES  
FLASHING PROUD AND BOLD,  
THEY SHIVER BY THE SHALLOW POOLS  
AND WHIMPER OF THE COLD.  
THEY DRINK AND DRINK. 'TIS A PRE-  
TENCE. THEY LOVE TO POSE AND  
PREEN,

EACH POOL IS BUT A LOOKING-GLASS  
WHERE THEIR SWEET WINGS ARE  
SEEN.  
THEY'RE GENTLEMEN — ADVENTURERS,  
THEY'RE GIPSIES EVERY WHIT,  
THEY LIVE ON WHAT THEY STEAL. THEIR  
WINGS BY BRIARS ARE FRAYED A BIT.  
THEIR LOVES ARE LIGHT. THEY HAVE NO  
HOUSE. AND IF IT RAINS TODAY  
THEY'LL CLIMB INTO YOUR CATTLE-SHED,  
AND HIDE THEM IN THE HAY.

#### THE GRAVE OF THE RIGHTEOUS KITTY.

HERE LIES A KITTEN GOOD, WHO KEPT  
A KITTEN'S PROPER PLACE.  
HE STOLE NO PANTRY EATABLES,  
NOR SCRATCHED THE BABY'S FACE.  
HE LET THE ALLEY-CATS ALONE,  
HE HAD NO YOWLING VICE.  
HIS SHIRT WAS ALWAYS LAUNDRIED WELL,  
HE FREED THE HOUSE OF MICE.  
UNTIL HIS DEATH HE HAD NOT CAUSED  
HIS LITTLE MISTRESS TEARS,  
HE WORE HIS BIBBON PRETTILY,  
HE WASHED BEHIND HIS EARS.

#### AN INDIAN SUMMER DAY ON THE PRAIRIE.

(IN THE BEGINNING.)

THE SUN IS A HUNTRESS YOUNG,  
THE SUN IS A RED, RED JOY,  
THE SUN IS AN INDIAN GIRL,  
OF THE TRIBE OF THE ILLINOIS.

(MID-MORNING.)

THE SUN IS A SMOKELING FIRE,  
THAT CREEPS THROUGH THE HIGH GREY  
PLAIN  
AND LEAVES NOT A BUSH OF CLOUD  
TO BLOSSOM WITH FLOWERS OF RAIN.

(NOON.)

THE SUN IS A WOUNDED DEER,  
THAT TREADS PALE GRASS IN THE SKIES,  
SHAKING HIS GOLDEN HORNS,  
FLASHING HIS BALEFUL EYES.

(SUNSET.)

THE SUN IS AN EAGLE OLD,  
THERE IN THE WINDLESS WEST  
ATOP OF THE SPIRIT-CLIFFS  
HE BUILDS HIM A CRIMSON NEST.

#### WHY I FLED FROM DUTY.

I HAVE LOST YOU, LITTLE MISS DUTY.  
I TOLD YOU MY LUST AND LOVE,  
LUST LIKE THE PULSE OF THE TIGER—  
THE HUNGER OF HAWK FOR DOVE.  
I HAVE LOST YOU, LITTLE MISS DUTY,  
THOUGH I BROUGHT YOU MYSELF QUITE  
WHOLE,  
WHITE BODY AND BLACK DESIRE—  
CONSCIENCE, AND BREATH, AND SOUL.  
“YOU ARE NAKED,” SAID LITTLE MISS  
DUTY,  
“GO HIDE IN THE CAVES AND HILLS,  
FOR I MUST BE GILDING COBWEBS,  
I AM CHAINED IN THE COBWEB MILLS.

MY SILK BUYS BREAD AND BUTTER  
AND PAYS MY DEBT ON THE FARM.”  
SO I STOLE HER SHOE FOR REMEMBRANCE  
AND FLED LEST I DO HER HARM.

#### MACHINERY.

OH, EGYPT—QUEEN OF EGYPT—  
WHEN I WAS KING OF BIRDS  
YOU CALLED ME FROM THE TREETOPS  
WITH MYSTIC COPTIC WORDS.  
YOU WHISTLED AND YOU WHISPERED,  
THEN MOCKED ME, FICKLE QUEEN.  
YOU SAID TO ALL MY SOUL TALK:  
“A BIRD IS A MACHINE.”  
YOUR TRIBE WAS OLD IN SCIENCE,  
YOU SAID TO ME—“YOUR WINGS  
ARE RODS AND STRINGS AND HINGES;  
THE PLACE IN YOU THAT SINGS  
“IS A TINY WILLOW WHISTLE,  
QUITE WELL DEVISED, BUT STILL  
A SISTRUM MAKES MORE MUSIC:  
A FEATHER'S BUT A QUILL;  
“A CLAW IS BUT A NEEDLE:  
A CRAW, A MILL FOR CORN;  
YOUR HEART IS BUT A LITTLE PUMP,  
YOUR SOUL WAS NEVER BORN.”

BUT THEN, I SANG SO DESPERATELY . . .  
I MADE FAIR EGYPT SIGH:—  
“OH DOWNTY SOUL IMMORTAL!  
OH BIRD THAT CANNOT DIE!”

#### LOVE AND LAW.

TRUE LOVE IS FOUNDED IN ROCKS OF RE-  
MEMBERANCE,  
IN STONES OF FORBEARANCE AND MORTAR  
OF PAIN.  
THE WORKMAN LAYS WEARILY GRANITE  
ON GRANITE,  
AND BLEEDS FOR HIS CASTLE 'MID SUN-  
SHINE AND RAIN.  
LOVE IS NOT VELVET, NOT ALL OF IT VEL-  
VET,  
NOT ALL OF IT BANNERS, NOT GOLD-LEAF  
ALONE.  
'TIS STERN AS THE AGES, AND OLD AS  
RELIGION,  
WITH PATIENCE ITS WATCHWORD AND  
LAW FOR ITS THRONE.

#### THE FLIGHT OF MONA LISA.

BEING THE SECRET HISTORY OF THE  
STEALING OF LEONARDO DA VINCI'S MAS-  
TERPIECE FROM THE GALLERY OF THE  
LOUVRE.  
ALWAYS ENTHRONED, AND EVER WISE AND  
STILL \* \* \*  
RIVERS OF STARING, STRENUOUS FOLK  
WENT BY.  
ONLY THE WISE AND RIPE OF SOUL  
WOULD PAUSE,  
MARKING THE SHADOWED MAGIC OF YOUR  
EYE \* \* \*  
NOW MOBS UNDO YOUR NAME WITH  
CLACKING TONGUE.  
TOO DULL TO KNOW THE LADY THAT YOU  
ARE,

IGNORANT OF THE RENAISSANCE SO SWEET  
OF WHICH YOU WERE THE CULMINATING  
STAR—  
CROWDS, TO WHOM BEAUTY IS A HIDDEN  
BOOK—  
THOUGH THEY GO SEEK IT TILL THEIR  
EYES ARE RED;  
MEN TO WHOM LEONARDO IS UNKNOWN  
OR BUT A DUSTY FAME, A LONG TIME  
DEAD:  
THESE SAY THAT YOU WERE COURTED BY  
A THIEF,  
NAY, RATHER, AFTER HALF A THOUSAND  
YEARS,  
YOUR SMILE TOOK ON AN UNEXPECTED  
BLOOM,  
DESIRE AROSE THAT MOVED YOU NIGH TO  
TEARS.  
YOU FLASHED THAT PRINCESS-GLANCE  
THAT WAS COMMAND—  
“CARRY ME WITH YOU YOUTH! I LEAVE  
THIS PLACE.  
I GROW LOVE-HUNGRY 'MID THE CEN-  
TURIES,  
YOURS IS THE DESTINED, FLUSHED ADOR-  
ING FACE!”  
AH, WHAT A BEAUTEOUS, WICKED THING  
IT WAS,  
THIS RECKLESS HOPE OF YOURS THAT  
STUNG HIM SO—  
TILL, SCORNING YOUR FAIR PALACE AND  
YOUR GUARD,  
HE HALED YOU TO SOME LONELY PLACE  
AGLOW.  
WHY DID THIS SUDDEN THIRST OF YOURS  
AWAKE?  
CAN FEVER MUTINY IN VEINS SO OLD?  
WHAT, IN HIS GESTURE TAMED YOUR  
SPIRIT HIGH?  
WHAT, IN HIS FIGURE MADE YOUR  
GLANCES BOLD?  
TILL, DAY BY DAY YOUR LONG LOOK  
WITCHING HIM,  
HIS FLAGGING PULSES KINDED TO SPICED  
FIRE,  
AND REACHED AT LAST THE RENAISSANCE  
SUPREME  
ATTAINED THE HEIGHT OF FLORENTINE  
DESIRE?  
I KNOW 'TWAS LEONARDO COME TO EARTH  
IN MASQUERADED FANCY DRESSED SO  
GAY.  
TRANSFORMED INTO A CARELESS ARTIST-  
BOY,  
A LOAFING STUDENT WASTING OUT THE  
DAY.  
AH, GROWN SO WEARY OF HIGH HEAVEN'S  
STREETS!  
AND OF THE GLITTERING SAINTS TOO-  
RIGHTEOUS GRACE!  
WEARY OF GODLY SUNSHINE WITHOUT  
END!  
SEEKING AGAIN THE SHADOWS OF YOUR  
FACE!  
YOU DID NOT KNOW HIM FOR HIMSELF  
UNTIL  
YOU FLED, WITHIN HIS ARMS, ADOWN  
THE STAIR,

THEN, (AND YOU SAW THE GLEAMING  
PARIS STREET),  
HE STOOD A GREY WISE MAN BESIDE YOU  
THERE.  
A WANDERING JEW, TO YOU HIS HEART'S  
OLD HOME,  
HE CAME, AND GAVE YOUR SOUL AT LAST  
SURPRISE,  
HE STRANGELY BROUGHT A CHILD-ASTON-  
ISHMENT,  
A NOBLE MAIDEN-WONDER TO YOUR EYES.  
HE RAVISHED YOU AWAY TO HEAVEN  
WITH HIM,  
STILL YEARNING FOR YOUR BITTER KISS  
AGAIN—  
YOUR BITTER, GENTLE, DOVE-LIKE WEARI-  
NESS,  
AND FOLLIES GARNERED 'MID THE SONS  
OF MEN.  
  
AN APOLOGY FOR THE BOTTLE  
VOLCANIC.  
SOMETIMES I DIP MY PEN AND FIND THE  
BOTTLE FULL OF FIRE,  
THE SALAMANDERS FLYING FORTH I CAN-  
NOT BUT ADMIRE.  
ITS ETNA, OR VESUVIUS, IF THOSE BIG  
THINGS WERE SMALL,  
AND THEN 'TIS BUT ITSELF AGAIN, AND  
DOES NOT SMOKE AT ALL.  
AND SO MY BLOOD GROWS COLD. I SAY,  
“THE BOTTLE HELD BUT INK,  
AND, IF YOU THOUGHT IT OTHERWISE,  
THE WORSER FOR YOUR THINK..”  
AND THEN, JUST AS I THROW MY SCRIB-  
BED PAPER ON THE FLOOR  
THE BOTTLE SAYS “FE, FI, FO, FUM,” AND  
STEAMS AND SHOUTS SOME MORE.  
OH, SAD DECEIVING INK, AS BAD AS LIQUOR  
IN ITS WAY—  
ALL DEMONS OF A BOTTLE SIZE HAVE  
PRANCED FROM YOU TODAY,  
AND SEIZED MY PEN FOR HOBBY-HORSE  
AS WITCHES RIDE A BROOM,  
AND LEFT A TRAIL OF BRIMSTONE WORDS  
AND BLOTS AND GOBS OF GLOOM.  
AND YET WHEN I AM EXTRA GOOD AND  
SAY MY PRAYERS AT NIGHT,  
AND MIND MY MA, AND DO THE CHORES,  
AND SPEAK TO FOLKS POLITE,  
MY BOTTLE SPREADS A RAINBOW-MIST, AND  
FROM THE VAPOR FINE!  
TEN THOUSAND TROOPS FROM FAIRYLAND  
COME RIDING IN A LINE.  
I'VE SEEN THEM ON THEIR CHARGERS  
RACE AROUND MY STUDY CHAIR,  
THEY OPENED WIDE THE WINDOW AND  
RODE FORTH UPON THE AIR.  
THE ARMY WIDENED AS IT WENT, AND  
INTO MYRIADS GREW,  
OH, HOW THE LANCES SHIMMERED, HOW  
THE SILVERY TRUMPETS BLEW!

## THE MAGICAL VILLAGE

### THE PATIENT WITCH.

A LADY CALLED THE PATIENT WITCH,  
LIVED NEAR US LONG AGO.  
OUR SERVANTS GAVE HER OFF AND ON  
A BIT OF COIN OR SO,  
TO TELL THEM WHAT THEIR DREAMS  
COULD MEAN,  
AND IF THEIR LOVES WERE TRUE;  
TO STUDY OUT THEIR PALMS AND SAY—  
“A PALACE WAITS FOR YOU,”  
AND THEN SHE ALWAYS WAS POLITE,  
AND SAID, “HOW DO YOU FARE?  
I HOPE YOUR LITTLE GIRL IS WELL,”  
WITH A MOST PLEASANT AIR.  
SHE MUMBLED MUCH, WE KNEW NOT  
WHAT—

EACH AFTERNOON WOULD WAIT  
BESIDE THE GUIDE-POST TO THE WEST  
FOR SOME EXALTED FATE.  
SHE LOOKED DOWN EVERY ROAD AS  
THOUGH  
A STATELY COACH WAS DUE,  
TO BEAR HER HOME TO SOMEWHERE  
ELSE,  
TO FOLKS SHE REALLY KNEW.

“ONE EVENING,” SAID A LITTLE BOY,  
THE ONLY ONE ANIGH,  
“SHE TOLD ME PRETTY STORIES, AND  
SHE KISSED MY CURLS GOODBY,  
AND TURNED INTO A SWAN AND SPREAD  
HER WHITE WINGS BIG AND WIDE,  
AND FLEW AND FLEW INTO THE SKY!  
AND I CAME HOME AND CRIED.”

### EDEN IN WINTER.

SUPPOSED TO BE CHANTED TO SOME RUDE  
INSTRUMENT AT A MODERN FIRE-  
PLACE.

CHANT WE THE STORY NOW  
THOUGH IN A HOUSE WE SLEEP.  
THOUGH BY A HEARTH OF COALS  
VIGIL TONIGHT WE KEEP.  
CHANT WE THE STORY NOW,  
OF THE VAGUE LOVE WE KNEW  
WHEN I FROM OUT THE SEA  
ROSE TO THE FEET OF YOU.  
BIRD FROM THE CLIFFS YOU CAME  
FLEW THROUGH THE SNOW TO ME,  
FACING THE ICY BLAST  
THERE BY THE ICY SEA.  
HOW DID I REACH YOUR FEET?  
WHY SHOULD I—AT THE END  
HOLD OUT HALF FROZEN HANDS  
DUMBLY TO YOU MY FRIEND?  
NE’ER HAD I WOMAN SEEN,  
NE’ER HAD I SEEN A FLAME.  
THERE YOU PILED FAGOTS ON  
HEAT ROSE—THE BLAST TO TAME.  
THERE BY THE CAVE-DOOR DARK  
COMFORTING ME YOU CRIED—  
WAILED O’ER MY WOUNDED KNEE  
WEPT FOR MY ROCK-TORN SIDE.  
UP FROM THE SOUTH I TRAILED—  
LEFT REGIONS FIERCE AND FAIR!  
LEFT ALL THE JUNGLE-TREES  
LEFT THE RED TIGER’S LAIR.

DREAM LED, I SCARCE KNEW WHY,  
INTO YOUR NORTH I TROD—  
NE’ER HAD I KNOWN THE SNOW,  
OR THE FROST-BLASTED SOD.  
OH HOW THE FLAKES CAME DOWN!  
OH HOW THE FIRE BURNED HIGH!  
STRANGE THING TO SEE HE WAS  
THROUGH HIS DRY TWIGS WOULD FLY.  
CREEP THERE AWHILE AND SLEEP—  
THEN WAKE AND BARK FOR FIGHT—  
BITING IF I TOO NEAR,  
CAME TO HIS EYE SO BRIGHT.  
THEN WITH A WILL YOU FED  
WOOD TO HIS HUNGRY TONGUE.  
THEN HE DID LEAP AND SING—  
DANCING THE CLOUDS AMONG.  
TURNING THE NIGHT TO NOON,  
STINGING MY EYES WITH LIGHT,  
MAKING THE SNOW RETREAT,  
MAKING THE CAVE-HOUSE BRIGHT.  
THERE WERE DRY FAGOTS PILED,  
NUTS AND DRY LEAVES AND ROOTS,  
STORES THERE OF FURS AND HIDES,  
SWEET-BARKS AND GRAINS AND FRUITS.  
THERE WRAPPED IN FUR WE LAY  
HALF-BURNED, HALF-FROZEN STILL—  
NE’ER WILL MY SOUL FORGET  
ALL THE NIGHT’S BITTER CHILL.  
WE HAD NOT LEARNED TO SPEAK  
I WAS TO YOU A STRANGE  
WOLFLING OR WOUNDED FAWN  
LOST FROM HIS FOREST-RANGE.  
THIRSTING FOR BLOODY MEAT  
OUT AT THE DAWN WE WENT,  
WEIGHED WITH OUR PREY AT EVE.  
HOME-CAME WE ALL FORESPENT.  
COMRADES AND HUNTERS TRIED  
ERE WE WERE MAID AND MAN—  
NOT TILL THE SPRING AWOKE  
LAUGHTER AND SPEECH BEGAN.  
WHINING LIKE FOREST DOGS,  
RUSTLING LIKE BUDDING TREES,  
BUBBLING LIKE THAWING SPRINGS,  
HUMMING LIKE LITTLE BEES,  
CROONING LIKE MAYTIME TIDES,  
CHATTERING PARROT WORDS,  
CRYING THE PANTHER’S CRY,  
CHIRPING LIKE MATING BIRDS—  
THUS, THUS, WE LEARNED TO SPEAK,  
WHO, ’MID THE SNOWS WERE DUMB,  
NOR DID WE LEARN TO KISS  
UNTIL THE SPRING HAD COME.

### THE TOWER BUILDER.

IN AN IMPERIAL HOUR  
WITH COUNTENANCE BENIGN,  
VENUS THE HOLY CAME  
AND LAID KIND HANDS IN MINE.  
HANDS I CANNOT FORGET.  
NEVER A WORD SHE SPOKE.  
SHE GAVE HER FINGER-TIPS  
AND MY DEAD SOUL AWOKE.  
I LEARNED WHY STRONG MEN TOIL,  
AND WHY BRIGHT CITIES RISE.  
I HARDLY TOUCHED HER HAIR,  
AND SCARCELY SAW HER EYES.

THOUGH SHE IS GONE I BUILD  
BY HER STRONG HANDS ALL DAY.  
I HAVE THE KEY TO LIFE,  
A POWER WORDS CANNOT SAY.

QUEEN MAB IN THE VILLAGE.  
OH, ONCE I LOVED A FAIRY,  
QUEEN MAB IT WAS. HER VOICE  
WAS LIKE A LITTLE FOUNTAIN  
THAT BIDS THE BIRDS REJOICE.  
HER FACE WAS WISE AND SOLEMN,  
HER HAIR WAS BROWN AND FINE.  
HER DRESS WAS PANSY VELVET,  
A BUTTERFLY DESIGN.  
TO SEE HER HOVER ROUND ME  
OR WALK THE HILLS OF AIR,  
AWAKENED LOVE'S DEEP PULSES  
AND BOYHOOD'S FIRST DESPAIR;  
A PASSION LIKE A SWORD-BLADE  
THAT PIERCED ME THROUGH AND  
THROUGH,  
HER FINGERS HEALED THE SORROW  
HER WHISPER WOULD RENEW.  
WE SIGHED AND REIGNED AND FEASTED  
WITHIN A HOLLOW TREE,  
WE VOWED OUR LOVE WAS BOUNDLESS  
ETERNAL AS THE SEA.  
SHE BANISHED FROM HER KINGDOM  
THE MORTAL BOY I GREW—  
SO TALL AND CRUDE AND NOISY,  
I KILLED GRASSHOPPERS TOO,  
I THREW BIG ROCKS AT PIGEONS,  
I PLUCKED AND TORE APART  
THE WEEPING, WAILING DAISIES,  
AND BROKE MY LADY'S HEART.  
AT LENGTH I GREW TO MANHOOD,  
I SCARCELY COULD BELIEVE,  
I EVER LOVED THE LADY,  
OR CAUSED HER COURT TO GRIEVE,  
UNTIL A DREAM CAME TO ME  
ONE BLEAK FIRST NIGHT OF SPRING  
'ERE TIDES OF APPLE BLOSSOMS  
ROLLED IN O'ER EVERYTHING,  
WHILE RAIN AND SLEET AND SNOWBANKS  
WERE STILL A VEXING MEN,  
'ERE ROBIN AND HIS COMRADES  
WERE NESTING ONCE AGAIN.—  
I SAW MAB'S BOOK OF JUDGMENT—  
ITS CLASPS WERE IRON AND STONE,  
ITS LEAVES WERE MAMMOTH IVORY,  
ITS BOARDS WERE MAMMOTH BONE,  
HID IN HER SEASIDE MOUNTAINS,  
FORGOTTEN OR UNKEPT,  
BENEATH ITS MIGHTY COVERS  
HER WRATH AGAINST ME SLEPT.  
AND DEEPLY I REPENTED  
OF BRASH AND BOYISH CRIME,  
OF MURDER OF THINGS LOVELY  
NOW AND IN OLDEN TIME.  
I CURSED MY VAIN AMBITION,  
MY WOULD-BE WORLDLY DAYS,  
AND CRAVED THE PATHS OF WONDER,  
OF DEWY DAWNS AND FAYS.  
I CRIED, "OUR LOVE WAS BOUNDLESS  
ETERNAL AS THE SEA,  
OH, QUEEN, REVERSE THE SENTENCE,  
COME BACK AND MASTER ME!"  
THE BOOK WAS BY THE CLIFF-SIDE

UPON ITS EDGE UPRIGHT.  
I LAID ME BY IT SOFTLY,  
AND WEPT THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT.  
AND THERE AT DAWN I SAW IT,  
NO BOOK NOW BUT A DOOR,  
UPON ITS PANELS WRITTEN  
"JUDGMENT IS NO MORE."  
THE BOLT FLEW BACK WITH THUNDER,  
I SAW WITHIN THAT PLACE  
A MERMAID WRAPPED IN SEAWEED  
WITH MAB'S IMMORTAL FACE,  
YET GROWN NOW TO A WOMAN,  
A WOMAN TO THE KNEE.  
SHE CRIED, SHE CLASPED ME FONDLY,  
WE SOON WERE IN THE SEA.  
AH, SHE WAS WISE AND SUBTLE,  
AND GAY AND STRONG AND SLEEK,  
WE CHAINED THE WICKED SWORD-FISH,  
WE PLAYED AT HIDE AND SEEK.  
WE FLOATED ON THE WATER,  
WE HEARD THE DAWN-WIND SING,  
I MADE FROM OCEAN-WONDERS  
HER BRIDAL WREATH AND RING.  
ALL MORTAL GIRLS WERE SHADOWS,  
ALL EARTH-LIFE BUT A MIST,  
WHEN DEEP BENEATH THE MAELSTROM,  
THE MERMAID'S HEART I KISSED.  
I WOKE BESIDE THE CHURCH-DOOR  
OF OUR SMALL INLAND TOWN,  
BOWING TO A MAIDEN  
IN A PANSY-VELVET GOWN,  
WHO HAD NOT HEARD OF FAIRIES,  
YET SEEMED OF LOVE TO DREAM.  
WE PLANNED AN EARTHLY COTTAGE  
BESIDE AN EARTHLY STREAM.  
OUR WEDDING LONG IS OVER,  
WITH TOIL THE YEARS FILL UP,  
YET IN THE EVENING SILENCE,  
WE DRINK A DEEP-SEA CUP.  
NOTHING THE FAY REMEMBERS,  
YET WHEN SHE TURNS TO ME,  
WE MEET BENEATH THE WHIRLPOOL,  
WE SWIM THE GOLDEN SEA.

THE MASTER OF THE DANCE.  
A MASTER DEEP-EYED  
ERE HIS MANHOOD WAS RIPE,  
HE SANG LIKE A THRUSH,  
HE COULD PLAY ANY PIPE.  
SO DULL IN THE SCHOOL  
THAT HE SCARCELY COULD SPELL,  
HE READ BUT A BIT,  
AND HE FIGURED NOT WELL.  
A BARE-FOOTED FOOL,  
SHOD ONLY WITH GRACE;  
LONG HAIR STREAMING DOWN  
ROUND A WIND-HARDENED FACE;  
HE SMILED LIKE A GIRL,  
OR LIKE CLEAR WINTER SKIES,  
A VIRGINAL LIGHT  
MAKING STARS OF HIS EYES.  
IN SWIFTNESS AND POISE,  
A PROUD CHILD OF THE DEER,  
A WHITE FAWN HE WAS,  
YET A FAWN WITHOUT FEAR.  
NO YOUTH THOUGHT HIM VAIN,  
OR MADE MOCK OF HIS HAIR,  
OR LAUGHED WHEN HIS WAYS

WERE MOST CURIOUSLY FAIR.  
A MASTIFF AT FIGHT  
HE COULD STRIKE TO THE EARTH  
THE ENVIOUS ONE  
WHO WOULD CHALLENGE HIS WORTH.  
HOWEVER WE BOWED  
TO THE SCHOOLMASTER MILD,  
OUR SPIRITS WENT OUT  
TO THE FAWN-FOOTED CHILD.  
HIS BECKONING LED  
OUR TROOP INTO THE BRUSH.  
WE FOUND NOTHING THERE  
BUT A WIND AND A HUSH.  
HE SAT BY A STONE  
AND HE LOOKED ON THE GROUND,  
AS IF IN THE WEEDS  
THERE WAS SOMETHING PROFOUND.  
HIS PIPE SEEMED TO NEIGH,  
THEN TO BLEAT LIKE A SHEEP,  
THEN SOUND LIKE A STREAM  
OR A WATERFALL DEEP.  
IT WHISPERED STRANGE TALES,  
HUMAN WORDS IT SPOKE NOT.  
TOLD FAIR THINGS TO COME,  
AND OUR MARVELOUS LOT  
IF NOW WITH FAWN-STEPS  
UNSHOD WE ADVANCED  
TO THE MIDST OF THE GROVE  
AND IN REVERENCE DANCED.  
WE OBEYED AS HE PIPED  
SOFT GRASS TO YOUNG FEET,  
WAS A MEDICINE MIGHTY,  
A REMEDY MEET.  
OUR THIN BLOOD AWOKE,  
IT GREW DIZZY AND WILD,  
THOUGH SCARCELY A WORD  
MOVED THE LIPS OF A CHILD.  
OUR DANCE GAVE ALLEGIANCE,  
IT SET US APART,  
WE TRIPPED A STRANGE MEASURE,  
UPLIFTED OF HEART.

## II

WE THOUGHT TO BE PROUD  
OF OUR FAWN EVERYWHERE.  
WE COULD HARDLY SEE HOW  
SIMPLE BOOKS WERE A CARE.  
NO RULE OF THE SCHOOL  
THIS STRANGE STUDENT COULD TAME.  
HE WAS BANISHED ONE DAY,  
WHILE WE QUIVERED WITH SHAME.  
HE PIPED BACK OUR LOVE  
ON A MOON-SILVERED NIGHT,  
ENTICED US ONCE MORE  
TO THE PLACE OF DELIGHT.  
A GREETING HE SANG  
AND IT MADE OUR BLOOD BEAT,  
IT TRAMPED UPON CUSTOM  
AND MOCKED AT DEFEAT.  
HE BUILDED A FIRE  
AND WE TRIPPED IN A RING,  
THE EMBERS OUR BOOKS  
AND THE FAWN OUR GOOD KING.  
AND NOW WE APPROACHED  
ALL THE MYSTERIES RARE  
THAT SHADOWED HIS EYELIDS  
AND BLEW THROUGH HIS HAIR.  
THAT SPELL NOW WAS PEACE

THE DEEP STRENGTH OF THE TREES,  
THE CHILDREN OF NATURE  
WE CLAMBERED HER KNEES,  
OUR BREATH AND OUR MOODS  
WERE IN TUNE WITH HER OWN,  
TREMENDOUS HER PRESENCE  
ETERNAL HER THRONE.  
THE OSTRACISED CHILD  
OUR WHITE FOREHEADS KISSED,  
OUR BODIES AND SOULS  
BECAME LIGHTER THAN MIST.  
SWEET DRESSES LIKE SNOW  
OUR SMALL LADY-LOVES WORE,  
LIKE MOONLIGHT THE THOUGHTS  
THAT OUR BOSOMS UPBORE,  
LIKE A LILY THE TOUCH  
OF EACH COLD LITTLE HAND,  
THE LOVES OF THE STARS  
WE COULD NOW UNDERSTAND.  
O QUIVERING AIR!  
O THE CRYSTALLINE NIGHT!  
O PAUSES OF AWE  
AND THE FACES SWAN-WHITE!  
O FERNS IN THE DUSK!  
O FOREST-SHRINED HOUR!  
O EARTH THAT SENT UP  
THE VAST THRILL AND THE POWER,  
TO LIFT US LIKE LEAVES  
A DELIRIOUS WHIRL  
THE MASTERFUL BOY  
AND THE DELICATE GIRL!  
WHAT CHILD THAT STRANGE NIGHT-TIME  
CAN EVER FORGET?

HIS FEALTY DUE  
AND HIS INFINITE DEBT  
TO THE FOLLY DIVINE,  
TO THE EXQUISITE RULE  
OF THE PERILOUS MASTER  
THE FAWN-FOOTED FOOL?

## III

NOW SOLDIERS WE SEEM,  
AND NIGHT BRINGS A NEW THING  
A TERRIBLE IRE  
AS OF THUNDER AWING.  
A WARRIOR POWER,  
THAT OLD CHIVALRY STIRRED,  
WHEN KNIGHTS TOOK UP ARMS,  
AS THE MAIDENS GAVE WORD.  
THE END OF OUR WAR,  
WILL BE WHITE-BANNED DAYS,  
WHEN THE TOWN LIKE A GREAT  
BUDDING ROSE SHALL UPRAISE!  
NEAR, NEARER, THAT WAR,  
AND THAT ECSTACY COMES,  
WE HEAR THE TREES BEATING

### INVISIBLE DRUMS.

THE FIELDS OF THE NIGHT  
ARE STARLIGHTED ABOVE,  
OUR GIRLS ARE WHITE TORCHES  
OF CONQUEST AND LOVE.  
NO NERVE WITHOUT WILL,  
AND NO BREAST WITHOUT BREATH,  
WE WHIRL WITH THE PLANETS  
THAT NEVER KNOW DEATH!

### THE DANDELION.

O DANDELION, RICH AND HAUGHTY,  
KING OF VILLAGE FLOWERS!  
EACH DAY IS CORONATION TIME,  
YOU HAVE NO HUMBLE HOURS.  
I LIKE TO SEE YOU BRING A TROOP  
TO BEAT THE BLUE-GRASS SPEARS,  
TO SCORN THE LAWN-MOWER THAT  
WOULD BE  
LIKE FATE'S TRIUMPHANT SHEARS.  
YOUR YELLOW HEADS ARE CUT AWAY,  
IT SEEMS YOUR REIGN IS O'er.  
BY NOON YOU RAISE A SEA OF STARS  
MORE GOLDEN THAN BEFORE.

### THE LAMP IN THE WINDOW.

I LIGHT MY HOMELY LAMP AGAIN TO-  
NIGHT,  
AND SAY—"PERHAPS A WANDERING ONE  
GOES BY,  
HURRIED PAST DOOR-WAYS WHERE THE  
WATCH-DOGS GROWL—"  
THE HEARTHS THE STRANGER DARES NOT  
COME ANIGH.  
WE SIT IN STOLID CIRCLE AT THE BOARD,  
AND NEVER A SON OR DAUGHTER TELLS A  
TALE.  
THE FAITHFUL MOTHER FINDS NO CHEER  
IN TOIL,  
OUR ROSY INFANT'S CROW CAN NAUGHT  
AVAIL.  
THE COUNTRYSIDE GROWS DULL WITH  
HOMES UNSTIRRED,  
THE PREACHER PRATES IN LONG-FAMILIAR  
WORDS.  
THE NEIGHBORS COME, WITH WOODEN  
EYES, TO TALK  
OF WEEDS AND FENCES, BARNS AND  
FLOCKS AND HERDS.  
PERHAPS TONIGHT WITHIN THE SOAKING  
RAIN  
SOME STORM-BLOWN BOY MOVES ON THAT  
WE SHOULD KEEP,  
TO BRING US LAUGHTER ROUND OUR ROARING  
ING STOVE,  
TO SHOW US WHY WE SOW AND WHY WE  
REAP.  
TONIGHT, PERCHANCE, A CONQUERING ONE  
RETURNS,  
MASTER OF WEARINESS AND FATE AND  
PAIN  
WITHIN HIS POCKET NOTE-BOOKS OF HIS  
LORE,  
WITHIN HIS SOUL GREAT PASSIONS HELD  
IN REIN.  
PERHAPS, TONIGHT SOME WILD MAN  
PASSES BY,

BEARING WISE PARCHMENTS FROM OLD  
CITIES GRIM,  
OR, IT MAY BE, A BETTER LAMP THAN  
MINE  
MORE LIKE ALADDIN'S, NOT, LIKE THIS  
ONE, DIM.  
ALL IT WILL NEED, THE OIL AND WICK  
AND FLAME,  
AND SHELTERED ROOM TO KEEP THE WIND  
AWAY  
I CAN PROVIDE. AH, IF A LAMP HE  
BRINGS,  
IT SHALL BE TRIMMED AND BURNISHED  
EVERY DAY!

### THE HEARTH ETERNAL.

THERE DWELT A WIDOW LEANED AND DE-  
VOUT,  
BEHIND OUR HAMLET ON THE EASTERN  
HILL.  
THREE SONS SHE HAD, WHO WENT TO  
FIND THE WORLD,  
THEY PROMISED TO RETURN, BUT WAND-  
ERED STILL.  
THE CITIES USED THEM WELL, THEY WON  
THEIR WAY,  
RICH GIFTS THEY SENT, TO STILL THEIR  
MOTHER'S SIGHS,  
WORN OUT WITH HONORS, AND APART  
FROM HER,  
THEY DIED AS MANY A SELF-MADE EXILE  
DIES.  
THE MOTHER HAD A HEARTH THAT WOULD  
NOT QUENCH,  
THE DEATHLESS EMBERS FOUGHT THE  
CREEPING GLOOM,  
SHE SAID TO US WHO CAME WITH  
WONDERING EYES—  
"THIS IS A MAGIC FIRE, A MAGIC ROOM."  
THE PINE BURNED OUT, BUT STILL THE  
COALS GLOWED ON,  
HER GRAVE GREW OLD BENEATH THE PEAR-  
TREE SHADE,  
AND YET HER CRUMBLING HOME EN-  
SHRINED THE LIGHT,  
THE NEIGHBORS PEERING IN WERE HALF-  
AFRAID.  
THEN STURDY BEGGARS, NEEDING FAGOTS  
CAME,  
ONE AT A TIME, AND STOLE THE WALLS,  
AND FLOOR.  
THEY LEFT A NAKED STONE, BUT HOW IT  
BLAZED!  
AND IN THE THUNDERSTORM IT FLARED  
THE MORE.  
AND NOW IT WAS THAT MEN WERE HEARD  
TO SAY,  
"THIS LIGHT SHOULD BE BELOVED BY ALL  
THE TOWN."  
AT LAST THEY MADE THE SLOPE A PLACE  
OF PRAYER,  
WHERE MARVELOUS THOUGHTS FROM GOD  
CAME SWEEPING DOWN.  
THEY LEFT THEIR CHURCHES CRUMBLING  
IN THE SUN,  
THEY MET ON THAT SOFT HILL, ONE  
BROTHERHOOD;

ONE STRENGTH AND VALOR ONLY, ONE DELIGHT,  
ONE LAUGHING, BROODING GENIUS, GREAT AND GOOD.  
NOW MANY GREY-HAIRED PRODIGALS COME HOME,  
THE PLACE OUT-FLAMES THE CITIES OF THE LAND,  
AND TWICE-BORN BRAHMANS REACH US FROM AFAR,  
WITH SUBTLE EYES PREPARED TO UNDERSTAND.  
HIGHER AND HIGHER BURNS THE EASTERN STEEP,  
SHOWING THE ROADS THAT MARCH FROM EVERYPLACE,  
A STEADY BEACON O'ER THE WEARY LEAGUES,  
AT DEAD OF NIGHT IT LIGHTS THE TRAVELLER'S FACE!  
THUS HAS THE WIDOW CONQUERED HALF THE EARTH,  
SHE WHO INCREASED IN FAITH, THOUGH ALL ALONE,  
WHE KEPT HER EMPTY HOUSE A MAGIC PLACE,  
HAS MADE THE TOWN A HOLY ANGEL'S THRONE.

THE BUSH OF BURNING SPICE.  
FROM DUST CELESTIAL THAT A CLOUD LET FALL,  
A BUSH CAME UP, FULL FORTY YEARS UNSEEN,  
THAT SCATTERED SMOKE AND EVER-BURNING SPICE  
ACROSS A FIELD OF THORNS AND BURDOCKS MEAN.  
AND THEN A CRIPPLED CHILD ON A SWEET TIME,  
OF HOLIDAY BEHELD IT DECK THE MORN.  
HIS FRIEND, THE PASTOR, SAW ONE BRANCH, AND SANG.  
THE VILLAGE LAUGHED THE FLIGHTY PAIR TO SCORN.  
LATER THE TWO GROWN OLD AND STAID DENIED,  
THE SOLITARY INSIGHT OF THEIR YOUTH,  
AND MOCKED THEIR CHILDREN, WHO WITH LAUGHTER SANG,  
“OUR EYES BEHOLD THE DEATHLESS BUSHE OF TRUTH.”  
“WHY DANCE, PRAY TELL,” THE CRIPPLE ASKED, “AND CHANT  
AROUND A CINDER IN AN EMPTY LOT?”  
“NO BURNING BUSH,” THE PASTOR SAID,  
“HAS BLOOMED SINCE MOSES’ DAY. NEW MIRACLES COME NOT.”  
AND YET THOSE FRAGILE CHILDREN GREW IN STRENGTH,  
RADIANT AND ROYAL AS THE YEARS INCREASED.  
AT LAST THEY BROUGHT THEIR REVERENT LOVERS THERE  
TO BREATHE THE SMOKE AS THOUGH IT WERE A FEAST.

FROM EVERY BRANCH FLEW OUT A RAINBOW BIRD,  
A DARLING SONGSTER WITH HIS PLUMES AFLAME,  
AND EVERY BIRD FLEW ROUND AND ROUND A CHILD,  
AND SANG OF GOD, AND CALLED THE CHILD BY NAME.  
THESE SWEETHEART'S NE'ER WERE FALSE.  
EACH WOMAN WORE WITHIN HER LOCKET SAFE, A FEATHER BLUE,  
THAT DROPPED TO HER FROM OUT THOSE WHIRLING PLUMES,  
A TALISMAN THAT KEPT HER LOVER TRUE.  
AND YET IN AFTER TIME THOSE DAYS GREW DIM,  
AND LEST THEY BE FOREVER LEFT BEHIND THEY WROTE THEM IN A BOOK IN NOBLE WORDS,  
SWEET HYMNS ABOUT A BUSH THEY COULD NOT FIND!

THE WOMAN CALLED “BEAUTY” AND HER SEVEN DRAGONS.  
A POEM FOR THOSE WHO DESIRE AN ESTHETIC UTOPIA.

SHE BUILT TO THE HEIGHT OF HER BREAST,  
AN EARTH-WORK OF THISTLES AND SOD.  
SHE LAVED HER SOFT ARMS IN THE SPRING,  
SHE SCATTERED THE FIRE WITH A ROD.  
THE ROSE-PETAL CHILD BY HER SIDE,  
CRIED OUT WITH A COUNTENANCE WHITE,  
THE MOUND THEY HAD BUILDED AWOKE,  
WITH EYES THAT WERE BLINKING AND BRIGHT.  
THE SEVEN STRANGE DRAGONS OF ART,  
CAME FORTH LIKE GOLD PARCHMENTS UNROLLED,  
AND FAWNED ON THE SIBYL’S DOVE-HAND,  
SUBMISSIVE AS SHEEP FROM THE FOLD.  
YET SHIMMERING OPALS OF FIRE,  
YET TITAN CHAMELEON—KINGS,  
ALL HISSING IMPATIENTLY THERE,  
UNSHEATHING THEIR TUSKS AND THEIR STINGS.  
SHE LAUGHED WHILE THEY FOAMED O'ER THE FIELD,  
AND BLASTED THE HEDGES WITH HEAT,  
AND POUNDED THE BOULDERS TO DUST,  
AND ATE THE RED FAGOTS LIKE MEAT.

II  
GO FORTH, TEAR THIS IRON AGE DOWN,  
“MY SONS,” THUS THE WISE WOMAN SPOKE,  
“AND SET EVERY FANTASY FREE,  
AND EVERY CRUSHED WORKER UNYOKE.  
ESTABLISH THE SANDALWOOD AGE,  
ESTABLISH THE WHITE AGE OF ART,  
WHEN EARTH WILL STILL SIN AS OF OLD,  
BUT SIN WITH A LOFTIER HEART.  
WHEN CATIFES AND BRAGGARTS WILL SLAY,  
BUT SLAY WITH A LOFTIER LUST,

WHEN LAUGHTER'S BRIGHT ROAD WILL BE  
CLEAN,  
AND TRAGEDY'S PATH MORE AUGUST.  
WHEN YOUTH WILL CLIMB RECKLESSLY  
STILL,  
BUT CLIMB DRAGON-GREAT IN ITS PRIDE,  
AND FULL-BLOODED, FURIOUS HOSTS,  
WILL FLAUNT MY WHITE BANNER AND  
RIDE  
TO FIGHT AGAINST BALLOTS WITH TRUTH,  
'GAINST MOBS, WITH THE CHISEL AND  
PEN;  
THE PRIZE OF MY SOLDIERS TO BE  
FAIR CONTINENTS FITTED FOR MEN."

### III

THE DRAGONS GAVE HEED TO THAT WORD,  
LIKE FIELD-FLOWERS THEY BOWED TO HER  
BREATH,  
WHO MADE THEM AND ORDERED THEM  
FORTH,  
WITH POWERS OF CREATION AND DEATH.  
THE CHILD SMOOTHED THEIR LEONINE  
MANES.  
FROM WIZARDRY HID IN THAT HAND,  
THEY GREW AS THE THUNDER-CLOUDS  
GROW,  
ENCOMPASSING WATER AND LAND.  
AND OH, HOW THEIR SERPENTINE SCALES  
FLASHED, RATTLED AND CRASHED IN THE  
AIR!  
THEY CLIMBED WITH ALL-CONQUERING  
COILS,  
GOD'S CRYSTAL, IMPERIAL STAIR.  
THEY ROARED THROUGH THE PATHWAYS  
OF DAY,  
SKY SWEEPING THEIR FOAM-FURROWS  
FLEW,  
THE SUN WAS AN ISLAND BESIEGED,  
THEIR PENNONS TALL WAVES OF THE  
BLUE.  
BEHEMOTHS THEY WERE OF THAT TIDE,  
OVERHEAD THAT MEN CALL THE HIGH  
NOON,  
THEIR CRIES IN BLOOD-STIRRING ACCORD,  
LIKE TRUMPETS OF DOOMSDAY IN TUNE!  
AND NOW THEY WERE GONE LIKE THE  
WIND,  
AND CLOUDLESS AND SILENT, THE HOUR,  
THE SIBYL WENT BACK TO THE TOWN,  
AND HER SONS HURRIED FORTH IN HER  
POWER.

### THE SOUL OF A BUTTERFLY.

I STOOD ON THE WALL WITHOUT A DOOR,  
WHERE THE HEAVEN OF HEAVENS BEGAN,  
ON THE SHORE OF THE DRIED-UP DEEP OF  
TIME,  
AND DEATH AND HELL AND MAN.  
BEHIND ME ROSE JERUSALEM,  
WITH A HUNDRED WALLS ON HIGH,  
TO THE ZENITH AND THE UPPER SOUTH,  
TO THE HILLS ABOVE THE SKY.  
I COULD NOT FACE THAT ROYAL TOWN,  
WITH ITS SIDES OF SOARING LIGHT;  
I STOOD ON THE LOWEST OUTER WALL  
AND LOOKED TO THE NORTHERN NIGHT,  
I CREEPT TO THE EDGE OF THE ADAMANT,

AND PEERED DOWN THE AWFUL STEEP,  
AND THE ANCIENT EARTH WAS A WILTING  
FLOWER,  
ON THE HEAVEN-LIT FIELDS OF THE DEEP.  
I KNEW OLD WORMS CONSUMED HER FACE,  
I KNEW ALL ELSE WAS FAIR,  
I KNEW SHE WAS THE BLACKEST PLACE  
WITHIN THE DEEPER AIR.  
AT LAST A CLOUD FROM THE RIVER DEATH,  
ROSE ROUND THAT TOMB OF MEN,  
BUT A VOICE WITHIN ME CRIED TO ME,  
"THE EARTH WILL LIVE AGAIN."  
AND THE CLOUD OUTSPREAD AND HID  
THE VOID,  
AND FOUND NOT ANY REST,  
TILL THE BOWL OF FATE WAS FILLED  
WITH MIST,  
TO THE LEVEL OF MY BREAST.  
AND NOW ON THE NORTH HORIZON'S RIM  
THE DEAD EARTH FLOATED, GRAY AND DIM,  
IT SEEMED TO ALWAYS FLOAT TO ME,  
AND THERE I WATCHED IT ENDLESSLY.  
I SAW THAT DEAD EARTH BUD AND BLOOM,  
AND FLASH WITH GOLD AND RED!  
AND NOW IT LOOKED ME IN THE FACE,  
A BUTTERFLY OF WONDROUS GRACE,  
THE SOUL OF A GIANT BUTTERFLY  
ARISEN FROM THE DEAD!

## RELIGIOUS VERSES

HERE'S TO THE SPIRIT OF FIRE.  
HERE'S TO THE SPIRIT OF FIRE, WHEREVER  
THE FLAME IS UNFURLED,  
IN THE SUN, IT MAY BE, AS A TORCH, TO  
LEAD ON AND ENLIGHTEN THE WORLD;  
THAT MELTED THE GLACIAL STREAMS, IN  
THE DAY THAT NO MEMORIES REACH,  
THAT SHIMMERED IN AMBER AND SHELL,  
AND WEED ON THE EARLIEST BEACH;  
THE GENIUS OF LOVE AND OF LIFE, THE  
POWER THAT WILL EVER ABOUND,  
THAT WAITS IN THE BONES OF THE DEAD,  
WHO SLEEP TILL THE JUDGMENT  
SHALL SOUND.  
HERE'S TO THE SPIRIT OF FIRE, WHEN  
CLOTHED IN SWIFT MUSIC IT COMES,  
THE GLOW OF THE HARVESTING SONGS, THE  
VOICE OF THE NATIONAL DRUMS;  
THE WHIMSICAL, VARIOUS FIRE, IN THE  
RHYMES AND IDEAS OF MEN,  
BURIED IN BOOKS FOR AN AGE, EXPLODING  
AND WRITHING AGAIN,  
AND BLOWN A RED WIND ROUND THE  
WORLD, CONSUMING THE LIES IN ITS  
MIRTH,  
THEN LOCKED IN DARK VOLUMES FOR  
LONG, AND BURIED LIKE COAL IN THE  
EARTH.  
HERE'S TO THE COMFORTING FIRE IN THE  
JOYS OF THE BLIND AND THE MEEK,  
IN THE CUSTOMS OF LETTERLESS LANDS,  
IN THE THOUGHTS OF THE STUPID  
AND WEAK.  
IN THE WEARIEST LEGENDS THEY TELL, IN  
THEIR CRUELEST COLDEST BELIEF,

IN THE PROVERBS OF COUNTER OR TILL, IN  
THE ARTS OF THE PRIEST OR THE  
THIEF.

HERE'S TO THE SPIRIT OF FIRE, THAT  
NEVER THE OCEAN CAN DROWN,  
THAT GLOWS IN THE PHOSPHORENT WAVE,  
AND GLEAMS IN THE SEA-ROSES  
CROWN;  
THAT SLEEPS IN THE SUNBEAM AND MIST,  
THAT CREEPS AS THE WISE CAN BUT  
KNOW,  
A WONDER, AN INCENSE, A WHIM, A PER-  
FUME, A FEAR AND A GLOW,  
ENSNARING THE STARS WITH A SPELL,  
AND HOLDING THE EARTH IN A NET,  
YEA, FILLING THE NATIONS WITH PRAYER,  
WHEREVER MAN'S PATHWAY IS SET.

LOOK YOU, I'LL GO PRAY.  
LOOK YOU, I'LL GO PRAY,  
MY SHAME IS CRYING,  
MY SOUL IS GREY AND FAINT,  
MY FAITH IS DYING.  
LOOK YOU, I'LL GO PRAY—  
“SWEET MARY, MAKE ME CLEAN,  
THOU RAINSTORM OF THE SOUL,  
THOU WINE FROM WORLD'S UNSEEN.”

THE MISSIONARY MISGIVING.  
(WILL THE WORLD BE BUT NOMINALLY  
CHRISTIAN?)  
I SEE ANOTHER LUTHER  
BRING WRATH TO INDIA'S EYES.  
I SEE AN INQUISITION  
BY CHINA'S CHURCHES RISE.  
I SEE ANOTHER CROMWELL  
SET FIRE TO GRIM JAPAN,  
LONG IS THE ROAD AND DREADFUL,  
WHEREBY CHRIST CONQUERS MAN.  
OR, IF OUR CREDITS SHALL CRUMBLE?  
WHAT IF THE AGES SEE,  
A JESUS LIKE TO BUDDHA,  
UNDER THE BOHDI TREE?  
A CHRIST TOO LIKE CONFUCIUS,  
WITH SILKEN ROBE AND FAN?  
YET ARE THE YEARS TRIUMPHANT  
IF CHRIST SHALL CONQUER MAN.  
FOR CHRIST HAS COME IN GLORY,  
WHEN MEN ARE BROTHERS HERE,  
WHEN SWORDS ARE TURNED TO PLOUGH-  
SHARES,  
AND PEACE HAS VANQUISHED FEAR.  
WHATEVER TOMS ENFOLDS HIM,  
HOWEVER STRANGE HIS PLAN,  
THE EARTH SHALL BE HIS THRONE-ROOM,  
OUR CHRIST SHALL CONQUER MAN!

#### FOREIGN MISSIONS IN BATTLE ARRAY.

AN ENDLESS LINE OF SPLENDOR,  
THESE TROOPS WITH HEAVEN FOR HOME,  
WITH CREDITS THEY GO FROM SCOTLAND,  
WITH INCENSE GO FROM ROME.  
THESE, IN THE NAME OF JESUS,  
AGAINST THE DARK GODS STAND,  
THEY GIRD THE EARTH WITH VALOR,  
THEY HEED THEIR KING'S COMMAND.

ONWARD THE LINE ADVANCES,  
SHAKING THE HILLS WITH POWER.  
SLAYING THE HIDDEN DEMONS,  
THE LIONS THAT DEVOUR.  
NO BLOODSHED IN THE WRESTLING,—  
BUT SOULS NEW-BORN ARISE—  
THE NATIONS GROWING KINDER,  
THE CHILD-HEARTS GROWING WISE.  
WHAT IS THE FINAL ENDING?  
THE ISSUE, CAN WE KNOW?  
WILL CHRIST OUTLIVE MOHAMMED?  
WILL KALI'S ALTAR GO?  
THIS IS OUR FAITH TREMENDOUS.—  
OUR WILD HOPE, WHO SHALL SCORN,—  
THAT IN THE NAME OF JESUS  
THE WORLD SHALL BE REBORN!

GALAHAD, KNIGHT WHO PERISHED.  
A POEM DEDICATED TO ALL CRUSADERS  
AGAINST THE INTERNATIONAL AND  
INTERSTATE TRAFFIC 'IN  
YOUNG GIRLS.  
GALAHAD \* \* \* SOLDIER THAT PER-  
ISHED \* \* \* AGES AGO,  
OUR HEARTS ARE BREAKING WITH SHAME,  
OUR TEARS OVERFLOW.  
GALAHAD \* \* \* KNIGHT WHO PER-  
ISHED \* \* \* AWAKEN AGAIN,  
TEACH US TO FIGHT FOR IMMACULATE  
WAYS AMONG MEN.  
SOLDIERS FANTASTIC, WE PRAY TO THE  
STAR OF THE SEA,  
WE PRAY TO THE MOTHER OF GOD THAT  
WHITE SLAVES MAY BE FREE.  
ROSE-CROWNED LADY FROM HEAVEN, GIVE  
US THY GRACE,  
HELP US THE DESPERATE, DESPERATE BAT-  
TLE TO FACE  
TILL THE LEER OF THE TRADER IS SEEN  
NEVERMORE IN THE LAND,  
TILL WE BRING EVERY MAID OF THE AGE  
TO ONE SHELTERING HAND.  
AH, THEY ARE PRICELESS, THE PALE AND  
THE IVORY AND RED!  
BREATHLESS WE GAZE ON THE CURLS OF  
EACH GLORIOUS HEAD!  
ARM THEM WITH STRENGTH MEDIEVAL,  
THY MARVELOUS DOWER,  
BLAST NOW THEIR TEMPTERS, SHELTER  
THEIR STEPS WITH THY POWER.  
LEAVE NOT LIFE'S FAIREST TO PERISH—  
STRANGERS TO THEE,  
LET NOT THE WEAKEST BE SHIPWRECKED,  
OH, STAR OF THE SEA!

THE PERILOUS ROAD.  
A POEM FOR SPIRITUALISTS.  
“HERMIT,” THE YOUTH SAID, “TEACH MY  
HEART THE WAYS  
OF HEAVEN'S FREE DAYS.  
AND ARE THEIR PLEASURES VARIOUS,  
FRAGILE, FLEET  
WHERE BRIGHT SOULS MEET?  
FATHER IN GOD, FOR I HAVE FASTED LONG,  
TEACH A WILD SONG.  
TEACH ME, THE WHILE I KNEEL, A CURI-  
OUS PRAYER  
TO RULE THE AIR.

SHOW ME THE SECRET DOOR THAT OPENS  
WIDE  
WHERE CHARIOTS RIDE.  
CHARIOTS THAT COME TO WHIRL YOU TO  
THE SKY,  
WHEN EVE IS NIGH,  
CHARIOTS THAT BEAR YOU BACK TO TIME  
AND SPACE,  
AND THIS GRIM PLACE."  
"NAY," SAID THE PALSID MAN, "I KEEP  
THE SPELL  
OF HEAVEN, OF HELL.  
NAY, THOUGH YOU KNEEL, GOOD YOUTH,  
I WILL NOT SHOW  
WHAT HERMITS KNOW.  
SELDOM I DARE TO OPEN WIDE MINE EYES,  
BY THAT PATH LIES  
TERROR, AND ROSE-BRIARS FIERCE WILL  
PIERCE AND SEAR,  
THIS OLD FRAME HERE.  
HE WHO WOULD SPEAK TO STRANGERS IN  
THE NIGHT  
GOING BY, IN WHITE:  
HE WHO WOULD SPEAK TO CHRIST IN  
FUNERAL ROOMS  
AND BY NEW TOMBS:  
WHO WOULD TOUCH THE HOT-WINGED,  
TALL IMMORTAL MEN,  
AND RETURN AGAIN:  
MUST SCORN HIS DAILY LIFE AND NATURAL  
FRIENDS,  
SUCH FRIENDSHIP ENDS.  
HE MUST LEAVE HIS SWEETHEART WEEP-  
ING IN THE LANE,  
TO FORESTALL HER PAIN  
WHEN HE WAKES ONCE MORE, HER FIND-  
ING HIM SO COLD  
TO THEIR LOVE OF OLD.  
A HEAVEN OF HEAVENS IS NOT ALWAYS  
WORTH  
A SURRENDERED EARTH.  
ONE BLAST OF THAT PERILOUS AIR DRIES  
UP THE HEART,  
YEA, IT SETS APART  
FROM ALL THINGS HERE THE SEER, HALF  
MAD, ALONE,  
LIKE A LEAF, A STONE."

#### HEART OF GOD.

A PRAYER IN THE JUNGLES OF HEAVEN.  
O GREAT HEART OF GOD,  
ONCE VAGUE AND LOST TO ME,  
WHY DO I THROB WITH YOUR THROB TO-  
NIGHT,  
IN THIS LAND, ETERNITY?  
O LITTLE HEART OF GOD,  
SWEET INTRUDING STRANGER,  
YOU ARE LAUGHING IN MY HUMAN  
BREAST,  
A CHRIST-CHILD IN A MANGER.  
HEART, DEAR HEART OF GOD,  
BESIDE YOU NOW I KNEEL,  
STRONG HEART OF FAITH. O HEART NOT  
MINE,  
WHERE GOD HAS SET HIS SEAL.  
WILD THUNDERING HEART OF GOD  
OUT OF MY DOUBT I COME,

AND MY FOOLISH FEET WITH PROPHETS'  
FEET,  
MARCH WITH THE PROPHETS' DRUM.

#### IN MEMORY OF A CHILD.

I

THE ANGELS GUIDE HIM NOW,  
AND WATCH HIS CURLY HEAD,  
AND LEAD HIM IN THEIR GAMES,  
THE LITTLE BOY WE LED.

II

HE CANNOT COME TO HARM,  
HE KNOWS MORE THAN WE KNOW,  
HIS LIGHT IS BRIGHTER FAR  
THAN DAYTIME HERE BELOW.

III

HIS PATH LEADS ON AND ON,  
THROUGH PLEASANT LAWNS AND FLOWERS,  
HIS BROWN EYES OPEN WIDE  
AT GRASS MORE GREEN THAN OURS.

IV

WITH PLAYMATES LIKE HIMSELF,  
THE SHINING BOY WILL SING.  
EXPLORING WONDROUS WOODS,  
SWEET WITH ETERNAL SPRING.

V

YET, HE IS LOST TO US.  
FAR IS HIS PATH OF GOLD,  
FAR DOES THE CITY SEEM,  
LONELY OUR HEARTS AND OLD.

#### RHYMES OF THE DAY AND HOUR

##### IN PRAISE OF SONGS THAT DIE.

AFTER HAVING READ A GREAT DEAL OF  
GOOD CURRENT POETRY IN THE MAGAZINES  
AND NEWSPAPERS.

AH, THEY ARE PASSING, PASSING BY,  
WONDERFUL SONGS, BUT BORN TO DIE!  
CRIES FROM THE INFINITE HUMAN SEAS,  
WAVES THRICE-WINGED WITH HARMONIES.  
HERE I STAND ON A PIER IN THE FOAM  
SEEING THE SONGS TO THE BEACH GO  
HOME  
DYING IN SAND WHILE THE TIDE FLOWS  
BACK,  
AS IT FLOWED OF OLD IN ITS FATED TRACK.  
OH HURRYING TIDE THAT WILL NOT HEAR  
YOUR OWN FOAM-CHILDREN DYING NEAR:  
IS THERE NO REFUGE-HOUSE OF SONG,  
NO HOME, NO HAVEN WHERE SONGS BE-  
LONG?  
OH PRECIOUS HYMNS THAT COME AND GO!  
YOU PERISH, AND I LOVE YOU SO!

##### FORMULA FOR A UTOPIA.

LET EVERY CHILD BE BORN OF PASSIONATE  
LOVE,  
CRADLED IN TENDERNESS AND SACRED JOY:  
GAY LITTLE MAIDENS WITH THE HEARTS  
OF NUNS—  
LET GALAHAD BE BORN IN EVERY BOY.

## THE PERFECT MARRIAGE.

### I.

I HATE THIS YOKE; FOR THE WORLD'S  
SAKE HERE PUT IT ON:  
KNOWING 'TWILL WEIGH AS MUCH ON  
YOU TILL LIFE IS GONE.  
KNOWING YOU LOVE YOUR FREEDOM DEAR,  
AS I LOVE MINE—  
KNOWING THAT LOVE UNCHAINED HAS  
BEEN OUR LIFE'S GREAT WINE:  
OUR ONE GREAT WINE, (YET SPENT TOO  
SOON, AND SERVING NONE;  
OF THE TWO CUPS FREE LOVE AT LAST THE  
DEADLY ONE.)

### II.

WE GRANT OUR MEETINGS WILL BE TAME,  
NOT HONEY-SWEET,  
NO LONGER TURNING TO THE TRYST WITH  
FLYING FEET.  
WE KNOW THE TOIL THAT NOW MUST  
COME WILL SPOIL THE BLOOM  
AND TENDERNESS OF PASSION'S TOUCH,  
AND IN IT'S ROOM  
WILL COME TAME HABIT, DEADLY CALM,  
SORROW AND GLOOM.  
OH HOW THE BATTLE SCARS THE BEST WHO  
ENTER LIFE!  
EACH SOLDIER COMES OUT BLIND OR LAME  
FROM THE BLACK STRIFE.  
MAD OR DISEASED OR DAMNED OF SOUL  
THE BEST MAY COME—  
IT MATTERS NOT HOW MERRILY NOW  
ROLLS THE DRUM,  
THE FIFE SHRILLS HIGH, THE HORN  
SINGS LOUD, TILL NO STEPS LAG—  
AND ALL ADORE THAT SILKEN FLAME,  
DESIRE'S GREAT FLAG.

### III.

WE WILL BUILD STRONG OUR TINY FORT,  
STRONG AS WE CAN—  
HOLDING ONE INNER ROOM BEYOND THE  
SWORD OF MAN.  
LOVE IS TOO WIDE, IT SEEMS TODAY, TO  
HIDE IT THERE,  
IT SEEMS TO FLOOD THE FIELDS OF CORN,  
AND GILD THE AIR—  
IT SEEMS TO BREATHE FROM EVERY BROOK,  
FROM FLOWERS TO SIGH—  
IT SEEMS A CATARACT POURED DOWN  
FROM THE GREAT SKY;  
IT SEEMS A TENDERNESS SO VAST NO BUSH  
BUT SHOWS

ITS HAUNTING AND TRANSFIGURING LIGHT  
WHERE WONDER GLOWS.

IT WRAPS US IN A SILKEN SNARE BY  
SHADOWY STREAMS,  
AND WILDERING SWEET AND STUNG WITH  
JOY YOUR WHITE SOUL SEEKS  
A FLAME, A FLAME, CONQUERING DAY,  
CONQUERING NIGHT.  
BROUGHT FROM OUR GOD, A HOLY THING,  
A MAD DELIGHT.

BUT LOVE, WHEN ALL THINGS BEAT IT  
DOWN, LEAVES THE WIDE AIR,  
THE HEAVENS ARE GREY, AND MEN TURN  
WOLVES, LEAN WITH DESPAIR.  
AH, WHEN WE NEED LOVE MOST, AND  
WEEP, WHEN ALL IS DARK,  
LOVE IS A PINCH OF ASHES GREY, WITH  
ONE LIVE SPARK—  
YET ON THE HOPE TO KEEP ALIVE THAT  
TREASURE STRANGE  
HANGS ALL EARTH'S STRUGGLE, STRIFE  
AND SCORN, AND DESPERATE CHANGE.

### IV.

LOVE? \* \* \* WE WILL SCARCELY LOVE  
OUR BABES, FULL, MANY A TIME—  
KNOWING THEIR SOULS AND OURS TOO  
WELL, AND ALL OUR GRIME—  
AND THERE BESIDE OUR HOLY HEARTH  
WE'LL HIDE OUR EYES—  
LEST WE SHOULD FLASH WHAT SEEKS  
DISDAIN WITHOUT DISGUISE.  
YET THERE SHALL BE NO WAVERING THERE  
IN THAT DEEP TRIAL—  
AND NO FALSE FIRE OR STRANGER HAND OR  
TRAITOR VILE—  
WE'LL FIGHT THE GLOOM AND FIGHT THE  
WORLD WITH STRONG SWORD-PLAY,  
ENTRENCHED WITHIN OUR BLOCK-HOUSE  
SMALL, EVER AT BAY—  
AS FELLOW-WARRIOR, UNDERPAID, WOUND-  
ED AND WILD,  
TRUE TO THEIR BATTERED FLAG, THEIR  
FAITH STILL UNDEFILED!

### V.

WE WILL DO WELL. WE'LL SAVE THROUGH  
LIFE LOVE'S SPARK, LOVE'S GEM,  
WE'LL GUARD NO MAN-MADE HEAP OF  
COINS OR DIADEM—  
BUT CLASP WORN HANDS, AND VOW GREAT  
VOWS TO GOD ABOVE,  
KEEPING UNQUENCED THROUGH STORM  
AND FEAR, ONE SPARK OF LOVE!

### THE LEADEN EYED.

LET NOT YOUNG SOULS BE SMOTHERED OUT  
BEFORE  
THEY DO QUAI<sup>T</sup> DEEDS AND FULLY  
FLAUNT THEIR PRIDE.  
IT IS THE WORLD'S ONE CRIME ITS BABES  
GROW DULL,  
ITS POOR ARE OX-LIKE, LIMP AND LEADEN  
EYED.  
NOT THAT THEY STARVE, BUT STARVE SO  
DREAMLESSLY,  
NOT THAT THEY SOW, BUT THAT THEY  
SELDOM REAP,  
NOT THAT THEY SERVE, BUT HAVE NO GODS  
TO SERVE,  
NOT THAT THEY DIE, BUT THAT THEY DIE  
LIKE SHEEP.

THE FOLLOWING VERSES WERE WRITTEN  
ON THE EVENING OF MARCH THE FIRST,  
NINETEEN HUNDRED AND ELEVEN, AND  
PRINTED NEXT MORNING IN THE ILLINOIS  
STATE REGISTER.

THEY CELEBRATE THE ARRIVAL OF THE  
NEWS THAT THE UNITED STATE SENATE  
HAD DECLARED THE ELECTION OF WILLIAM  
LORIMER GOOD AND VALID, BY A VOTE OF  
FORTY-SIX TO FORTY.

X TO THE UNITED STATES SENATE.  
REVELATION 16: VERSES 16 THROUGH 19.  
AND MUST THE SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS  
BE THIS SQUAT THING, WITH BLINKING,  
HALF-CLOSED EYES?  
THIS BRAZEN GUTTER IDOL, REARED TO  
POWER  
UPON A LEERING PYRAMID OF LIES?  
AND MUST THE SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS  
BE THE WORLD'S PROVERB OF SUCCESSFUL  
SHAME,  
DAZZLING ALL STATE HOUSE FLIES THAT  
STEAL AND STEAL,  
WHO, WHEN THE SAD STATE SPARES  
THEM, COUNT IT FAME?  
IF ONCE OR TWICE WITHIN HIS NEW WON  
HALL  
HIS VOTE HAD COUNTED FOR THE BROKEN  
MEN;  
IF IN HIS EARLY DAYS HE WROUGHT  
SOME GOOD—  
WE MIGHT A GREAT SOUL'S SINS FORGIVE  
HIM THEN.  
BUT MUST THE SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS  
BE VINDICATED BY FAT KINGS OF GOLD?  
AND MUST HE BE BELAUSED BY THE  
SMIRCHED,  
THE SLEEK, UNCANNY CHIEFS IN LIES  
GROWN OLD?  
BE WARNED, OH, WANTON ONES, WHO  
SHIELDED HIM—  
BLACK WRATH AWAITS. YOU ALL SHALL  
EAT THE DUST.  
YOU DARE NOT SAY: "TOMORROW WILL  
BRING PEACE;  
LET US MAKE MERRY, AND GO FORTH IN  
LUST."  
WHAT WILL YOU TRADING FROGS DO ON A  
DAY

WHEN ARMAGEDDON THUNDERS THROUGH  
THE LAND;  
WHEN EACH SAD PATRIOT RISES, MAD  
WITH SHAME,  
HIS BALLOT OR HIS MUSKET IN HIS HAND?  
IN THE DISTRACTED STATES FROM WHICH  
YOU CAME  
THE DAY IS BIG WITH WAR HOPES FIERCE  
AND STRANGE;  
OUR IRON CHICAGOS AND OUR GRIMY  
MINES  
RUMBLE WITH HATE AND LOVE AND SOL-  
EMN CHANGE.  
TOO MANY WEARY MEN SHED HONEST  
TEARS,  
GROUND BY MACHINES THAT GIVE THE  
SENATE EASE.  
TOO MANY LITTLE BABES WITH BLEEDING  
HANDS  
HAVE HEAPED THE FRUITS OF EMPIRE ON  
YOUR KNEES.  
AND SWINE WITHIN THE SENATE IN THIS  
DAY,  
WHEN ALL THE SMOTHERING BY-STREETS  
WEEP AND WAIL;  
WHEN WISDOM BREAKS THE HEARTS OF  
HER BEST SONS;  
WHEN KINGLY MEN, VOTING FOR TRUTH,  
MAY FAIL:  
THESE ARE A PORTENT AND A CALL TO  
ARMS.  
OUR PROTEST TURNS INTO A BATTLE CRY:  
"OUR SHAME MUST END, OUR STATES BE  
FREE AND CLEAN;  
AND IN THIS WAR WE CHOOSE TO LIVE  
AND DIE."

### DREAMS IN THE SLUM.

SOME MEN, NOT BLIND, STILL THINK AMID  
THE FILTH.  
SOME SCHOLARS SEE VAST CITIES LIKE  
THE SUN:  
BRIGHT HIVES OF POWER, OF JUSTICE AND  
OF LOVE,  
IN BRAINS LIKE THESE OUR ZION HAS-  
BEGUN.  
WHAT WILL YOU DO TO MAKE THEIR  
THOUGHT COME TRUE?  
OR WILL YOU TREAD THEIR PEARLS INTO  
THE EARTH?  
FRIENDS, WHEN SUCH VOICES RISE DESPITE  
THE TIME,  
WHAT ARE YOUR SHABBY, RICH MAN'S  
TEMPLES WORTH?

### THE EAGLE THAT IS FORGOTTEN.

(JOHN P. ALTGELD. BORN DEC. 30, 1847;  
DIED MARCH 12, 1902.)  
SLEEP SOFTLY \* \* \* EAGLE FORGOTTEN  
\* \* \* UNDER THE STONE,  
TIME HAS ITS WAY WITH YOU THERE, AND  
THE CLAY HAS ITS OWN.  
"WE HAVE BURIED HIM NOW," THOUGHT  
YOUR FOES, AND IN SECRET REJOICED.  
THEY MADE A BRAVE SHOW OF THEIR  
MOURNING, THEIR HATRED UNVOICED.

THEY HAD SNARLED AT YOU, BARKED AT  
YOU, FOAMED AT YOU DAY AFTER DAY,  
NOW YOU WERE ENDED. THEY PRAISED  
YOU, \* \* \* AND LAID YOU AWAY.  
THE OTHERS THAT MOURNED YOU IN  
SILENCE AND TERROR AND TRUTH.  
THE WIDOW BEREFT OF HER CRUST, AND  
THE BOY WITHOUT YOUTH,  
THE MOCKED AND THE SCORNED AND THE  
WOUNDED, THE LAME AND THE POOR  
THAT SHOULD HAVE REMEMBERED FOR-  
EVER, \* \* \* REMEMBER NO MORE.  
WHERE ARE THOSE LOVERS OF YOURS, ON  
WHAT NAME DO THEY CALL  
THE LOST, THAT IN ARMIES WEPT OVER  
YOUR FUNERAL PALL?  
THEY CALL ON THE NAMES OF A HUNDRED  
HIGH-VALIANT ONES,  
A HUNDRED WHITE EAGLES HAVE RISEN  
THE SONS OF YOUR SONS,  
THE ZEAL IN THEIR WINGS IS A ZEAL THAT  
YOUR DREAMING BEGAN  
THE VALOR THAT WORE OUT YOUR SOUL IN  
THE SERVICE OF MAN.  
SLEEP SOFTLY, \* \* \* EAGLE FORGOTTEN,  
\* \* \* UNDER THE STONE,  
TIME HAS ITS WAY WITH YOU THERE  
AND THE CLAY HAS ITS OWN.  
SLEEP ON, O BRAVE HEARTED, O WISE MAN,  
THAT KINDLED THE FLAME—  
TO LIVE IN MANKIND IS FAR MORE THAN  
TO LIVE IN A NAME,  
TO LIVE IN MANKIND, FAR FAR MORE \* \*  
THAN TO LIVE IN A NAME.

TO THOSE THAT WOULD MEND  
THESE TIMES.

GO PLANT THE ARTS THAT WOO THE  
WEARIEST,  
BOLD ARTS THAT SIMPLE WORKMEN UN-  
DERSAND,  
THAT MAKE NO POOR MEN AND KEEP ALL  
MEN RICH,  
AND THRONE OUR LADY BEAUTY IN THE  
LAND!

TO THOSE THAT WOULD HELP THE  
FALLEN.

GO PLANT THE CRAFTS THAT GIVE A DEEP  
DELIGHT  
TO ALL WHO MAKE, TO ALL WHO USE  
AND SEE:—  
NEW CRAFTS WHERE ROUGHEST MEN CAN  
HINT AT THE THOUGHT  
AND WRITE LIFE'S LYRIC IN A HAND SET  
FREE:  
THE DEATHLESS TOUCH OF AGES WORKED  
ANEW

UPON THE DOOR OF EVERY TINIEST ROOM:  
THE JOY OF LIVING PAINTED ON THE  
WALLS,  
AND DAZZLING FABRICS WROUGHT ON ART'S  
HOME-LOOM.  
DECKING THE PARKS: VAIR, VELVET, SILK  
AND GOLD:

OLD PAGEANTS MARCHING THAT WERE  
LONG-TIME DEAD:  
INNOCENT GAMBOLS, HARP AND SONG  
AFOOT:—  
TO PRAISE THE DAY WHEN ART AND FREE-  
DOM WED!

THE TRAP.

SHE WAS TAUGHT DESIRE IN THE STREET  
NOT AT THE ANGEL'S FEET.  
BY THE GOOD NO WORD WAS SAID  
OF THE WORTH OF THE BRIDAL BED.  
THE SECRET WAS LEARNED FROM THE VILE  
NOT FROM HER MOTHER'S SMILE.  
HOME SPOKE NOT. AND THE GIRL  
WAS CAUGHT IN THE PUBLIC WHIRL.  
DO YOU SAY "SHE GAVE CONSENT":  
LIFE DRUNK, SHE WAS CONTENT  
WITH BEASTS THAT HER FIRE COULD  
PLEASE?"

BUT SHE DID NOT CHOOSE DISEASE  
OF MIND AND NERVES AND BREATH.  
SHE WAS TRAPPED TO A SLOW, FOUL  
DEATH.

THE DOOR WAS WATCHED SO WELL,  
THAT THE STEEP DARK STAIR TO HELL  
WAS THE ONLY ESCAPING WAY \* \* \*  
"SHE GAVE CONSENT," YOU SAY?  
SOME THINK SHE WAS MEEK AND GOOD  
ONLY LOST IN THE WOOD  
OF YOUTH, AND DECEIVED IN MAN  
WHEN THE HUNGER OF SEX BEGAN  
THAT TIES THE HUSBAND AND WIFE  
TO THE END IN A STRONG FOND LIFE.  
HER CAPTOR, BY CHANCE WAS ONE  
OF THOSE WHOSE PASSION WAS DONE,  
A COLD FIERCE WORM OF THE SEA  
ENSLAVING FOR YOU AND ME.  
THE WAGES THE POOR MUST TAKE  
HAVE FORCED THEM TO SERVE THIS SNAKE.  
YEA, HALF-PAID GIRLS, MUST GO  
FOR BREAD TO HIS PIT BELOW.  
WHAT HANGMAN SHALL WAIT HIS HOST  
OF BUTCHERS FROM COAST TO COAST,  
NEW YORK TO THE GOLDEN GATE—  
THE MERGER OF DEATH AND FATE,  
LUST-KINGS WITH A CAREFUL PLAN  
CLEAN-CUT, AMERICAN?

OH MOTHERS WHO FAILED TO TELL  
THE MAZES OF HEAVEN AND HELL,  
WHO FAILED TO ADVISE, IMPOSE  
YOUR DAUGHTER AT LOVE'S STRANGE DOOR  
WHAT WILL YOU DO THIS DAY?  
YOUR DEAR ONES ARE HIDDEN AWAY,  
AS GOOD AS CHAINED TO THE BED  
HID LIKE THE MAD, OR THE DEAD:—  
THE GLORIES OF ENDLESS YEARS  
DROWNED IN THEIR HARLOT-TEARS:  
THE CHILDREN THEY HOPED TO BEAR  
GRANDCHILDREN STRONG AND FAIR  
THE LIFE FOR AGES TO BE  
CUT OFF LIKE A BLASTED TREE,  
MURDERED IN FILTH IN A DAY,  
SOMEHOW, BY THE MERCHANT GAY!  
IN LIBERTY'S NAME WE CRY  
FOR THESE WOMEN ABOUT TO DIE.

WHAT SHALL BE SAID OF A STATE  
WHERE TRAPS FOR THE WHITE BRIDES  
WAIT?  
OF SELLERS OF DRINK WHO PLAY  
THE GAME FOR THE EXTRA PAY?  
OF STATESMEN IN LEAGUE WITH ALL  
WHO HOPE FOR THE GIRL-CHILD'S FALL?  
OF BANKS WHERE HELL'S MONEY IS PAID  
AND PHARISEES ALL AFRAID  
OF PANDARS THAT HELP THEM SIN?  
WHEN WILL OUR WRATH BEGIN?

TO REFORMERS IN DESPAIR,  
'TIS NOT TOO LATE TO BUILD OUR YOUNG  
LAND RIGHT,  
CLEANER THAN HOLLAND, COURTLIER THAN  
JAPAN,  
DEVOUT LIKE EARLY ROME, WITH HEARTHS  
LIKE HERS,  
HEARTHS THAT WILL RECREATE THE BREED  
CALLED MAN.

## POEMS ON THE FAR DISTANT FUTURE

### THE LEGISLATURE.

OUT OF THE HEART OF AGES COMES THE  
LAW,  
THE SONS WILL HONOR WHAT THE SIRES  
HAVE LEFT:  
THEIR PROVERB IS THE FATHERS' CARE-  
LESS WIT,  
THEIR HONESTY THE FATHERS' CARELESS  
THEFT.  
WHAT IS OUR FREEDOM BUT A CHANCE  
TO GIVE  
POSTERITY A NOBLE HOUSE FOR PLAY?  
AND WILL OUR CHECKED AND BALANCED  
LAWS BE CHAINS  
TO HANG OUR CHILDREN IN AN EVIL DAY?  
WE SAY WE WANT THE NATION TO BE  
FREE,  
YET THERE'S A CLANK IN EVERY LAW  
WE WRITE.  
WHY SHOULD WE WORK AT SUCH ILL-  
OMENED STEEL?  
TODAY THE FORGE IS LOUD, THE METAL  
WHITE.  
TODAY MAD BLOWS COME THICK AND FAST.  
THE STEEL  
YIELDS WELL, THAT SOON WILL COOL FOR-  
EVERMORE.  
WHAT HAVE OUR WILD BLOWS WROUGHT?  
WHAT GRACELESS MOULD  
WHERE MEN WILL POUR THEIR BLOOD  
FOREVERMORE?

### THE PILGRIMS FROM ASIA. (IN THE DISTANT FUTURE.)

I HAVE WATCHED MULTITUDES OF SCHOL-  
ARS COME  
TO HAUNT YOUR FOOT-STEPs, LINCOLN, IN  
OUR TOWN;  
EACH PILGRIM PACING FROM THE DAYS TO  
BE,  
CLAD IN A GLITTERING STRANGE-RUSTLING  
GOWN.

UPON THEIR FLAGS AND SASHES, CLOAKS  
AND COATS  
NEW ASIA'S SYMBOLS, RICH EMBROIDERED  
THINGS;  
(STRONG MEN, SET FREE FROM PRIDES  
THAT LEAVE US PLAIN,  
BROACADED MORE THAN BABYLONIAN  
KINGS;)  
THEIR FACES TOUCHED WITH CULTURES  
NOW UNKNOWN,  
THEIR EYES ALIGHT WITH WISDOMS WE  
DESIRE,  
DOING LONG HONORS TO THE AUSTERE  
DEAD,  
WITH BANNER, PANTOMIME AND SONG  
AND FIRE.  
THOSE WORTHIER DAYS SHALL HAIL THEM  
FREEDOM'S SEERS:  
SELF-MASTERING CHIEFS WITH GENIUS  
IN CONTROL.  
AND YET, THAT MARVELLOUS WORLD SHALL  
TURN TO THIS,  
TRACING SWEET FREEDOM BACK TO LIN-  
COLN'S SOUL.

WE CANNOT CONQUER TIME.  
WE CANNOT CONQUER TIME. SIT DOWN,  
BREATHE SLOW,  
AND MUSE A LITTLE, SINCE GREAT TIME  
IS KING.  
THE MOTH AND RUST SHALL DO THEIR  
DESTINED WORK  
UPON US, THOUGH WE POLISH EVERY-  
THING.  
AND ALL OUR QUAI NT ATTEMPTS TO BEAT  
THE CLOCK  
TO TREAD TIME DOWN TO DEATH WITH  
HURRYING FEET,  
SHALL SLOWLY END. WE WILL REAR HIGH  
HIS FANE,  
AND COUNT HIS EVERLASTING BONDAGE  
MEET.  
THE MOTH, THE RUST, THE IVY AND THE  
RAIN,  
THE HAIL AND SNOW EVEN TODAY WEAR  
DOWN  
EACH TOWER THAT SPEAKS OF NEWNESS  
ALL TOO WELL.  
EACH POMPous PALACE WITH ITS GLITTER-  
ING CROWN.  
THE MOTH, THE RUST, THE IVY AND THE  
RAIN,  
THE HAIL AND SNOW AND WIND, WILL, AT  
THE LAST,  
ENTER THE INNER HEART OF THIS OUR  
RACE,  
UNTIL WE LOVE NO FUTURE LIKE THE  
PAST.

## FINAL POEMS OF THE ROAD

### LAZARUS AND DIVES.

WRITTEN FOR THAT RARE CREATURE, A  
PREOCCUPIED HOST.  
I AM LAZARUS, POOR THEY SAY,  
WAYSIDE DOGS ARE MINE FOR FRIENDS,  
ON OUR SORES THE RAINS DESCENDS,  
SCORN IS OURS THROUGHOUT THE DAY.

I AM LAZARUS AT YOUR GATE,  
BREAD IS MINE, THE BITS THAT FALL  
FROM YOUR AMPLE TABLE, ALL  
CHANCE HAS SCATTERED FROM YOUR  
PLATE.

WELL CONTENT, I TAKE MY SHARE,  
'TIS A SORT OF TACIT RIGHT.  
NO MAN FOR MY CRUMB WILL FIGHT,  
NO MAN DRIVES ME FROM THE STAIR.  
DIVES, OF THE NOBLE HEART,  
BY MISGIVING WORN AWAY:  
WHETHER PLEASURES GO OR STAY  
HOW YOU FUME AND BROOD AND START!  
LAZARUS YOU NEVER SEE,  
ALL THE LOAF OF LIFE YOU OWN,  
MADE SO GOOD FOR YOU ALONE,  
YET THIS CRUMB COMES DOWN TO ME.

#### A PRAYER TO ALL THE DEAD AMONG MINE OWN PEOPLE.

ARE THESE YOUR PRESENCES, MY CLAN  
FROM HEAVEN?  
ARE THESE YOUR HANDS UPON MY  
WOUNDED SOUL?  
MINE OWN, MINE OWN, BLOOD OF MY  
BLOOD BE WITH ME,  
FLY BY MY PATH TILL YOU HAVE MADE  
ME WHOLE!

#### ON THE ROAD TO NOWHERE.

ON THE ROAD TO NOWHERE  
WHAT WILD OATS DID YOU SOW  
WHEY YOU LEFT YOUR FATHER'S HOUSE  
WITH YOUR CHEEKS AGLOW?  
EYES SO STRAINED AND EAGER  
TO SEE WHAT YOU MIGHT SEE?  
WERE YOU THIEF OR WERE YOU FOOL  
OR MOST NOBLY FREE?

WERE THE TRAMP-DAYS KNIGHTLY,  
TRUE SOWING OF WILD SEED?  
DID YOU DARE TO MAKE THE SONGS  
VANQUISHED WORKMEN NEED?  
DID YOU WASTE MUCH MONEY  
TO DECK A LEPER'S FEAST?  
LOVE THE TRUTH, DEFY THE CROWD,  
SCANDALIZE THE PRIEST?  
ON THE ROAD TO NOWHERE  
WHAT WILD OATS DID YOU SOW?  
STUPIDS FIND THE NOWHERE-ROAD  
DUSTY GRIM AND SLOW,  
ERE THEIR SOWING'S ENDED  
THEY TURN THEM ON THEIR TRACK,  
LOOK AT THE CATIF CRAVEN WIGHTS,  
REPENTANT, HURRYING BACK!  
GROWN ASHAMED OF NOWHERE  
OF RAGS ENDURED FOR YEARS,  
LUST FOR VELVET IN THEIR HEARTS,  
PIERCED WITH MAMMON'S SPEARS,  
ALL BUT A FEW FANATICS  
GIVE UP THEIR DARLING GOAL,  
SEEK TO BE AS OTHERS ARE,  
STULTIFY THE SOUL,  
REAPINGS NOW CONFRONT THEM,  
GLUT THEM, OR DESTROY,  
CURIOS SEEDS, GRAIN OR WEEDS  
SOWN WITH AWFUL JOY.  
HURRIED IS THEIR HARVEST,  
THEY MAKE SOFT PEACE WITH MEN,  
PILGRIMS PASS. THEY CARE NOT,  
WILL NOT TRAMP AGAIN.  
OH NOWHERE, GOLDEN NOWHERE!  
SAGES AND FOOLS GO ON  
TO YOUR CHAOTIC OCEAN,  
TO YOUR TREMENDOUS DAWN.  
FAR IN YOUR FAIR DREAM-HAVEN,  
IS NOTHING OR IS ALL \* \* \*  
THEY PRESS ON, SINGING, SOWING,  
WILD DEEDS WITHOUT RECALL!

MR. LINDSAY OFFERS THE FOLLOWING  
SERMONS, TO BE PREACHED ON SHORT  
NOTICE, AND WITHOUT A COLLECTION, IN  
ANY CHAPEL THAT WILL OPEN ITS DOORS  
AS HE PASSES BY: (1) THE GOSPEL OF  
THE HEARTH. (2) THE GOSPEL OF VOL-  
UNTARY POVERTY. (3) THE HOLINESS OF  
BEAUTY.